

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows (the changes are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter and underlining for added matter). A complete listing of the claims is set out below with proper claim identifiers.

1. (Original) A method of separating ergosterol from a solution containing ergosterol in water-insoluble organic solvent, which comprises supplying water to said solution and precipitating ergosterol.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein an amount of water supplied is within such a range of amount that no phase separation to form two liquid phases occurs between the water-insoluble organic solvent and water.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the solution containing ergosterol in the water-insoluble organic solvent is a solution extracted from a microorganism containing the ergosterol using the water-insoluble organic solvent, or a solution obtained by extracting ergosterol from the microorganism using another solvent and then replacing said another solvent with the water-insoluble organic solvent.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of ~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble organic solvent is hexane, heptane, octane, or a mixture thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of ~~claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the supplying water is conducted by continuously or intermittently moisturizing a gas phase portion within an apparatus for precipitating ergosterol.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of ~~claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the ergosterol is separated by precipitation as an aggregate having a crystallinity of 50% to 90%.

7. (Original) An ergosterol aggregate having a crystallinity of 50% of 90%.